

respect to Hudson, Duffy gave “no indication as to the position the Secretary would take on the matter,” but said that the decision “would be coming out soon.” Dacey noted Duffy’s expression of concern for “the double standard the Department would be establishing should they decide against” the proposal, noting that “tribes petitioning for the land acquisition . . . usually want lands taken into trust over the objections from area communities and businesses.”

According to his memo, Dacey also met with Babbitt’s Chief of Staff, Thomas Collier, during this period. Dacey reported that Collier would be leaving DOI at the end of that month. According to the memo, Collier had been meeting with a number of tribes and Collier said he was preparing a report to the Secretary “concerning the future of Indian gaming.”³⁴⁴ With respect to Hudson, Dacey reported that “Collier said the Department of Interior will not sign off on the Hudson proposal as long as Governor Thompson and the area community is [sic] opposed to the deal.” According to Dacey, Collier viewed the Governor and the community as opposed to the Hudson proposal.

On June 29, 1995, after months of lobbying by opponents, Sen. Feingold of Wisconsin announced that he opposed the Hudson casino proposal. In addition to issuing a press release, Sen. Feingold sent a letter to Secretary Babbitt, urging him to reject the casino application.

³⁴⁴Neither DOI nor Collier produced such a report pursuant to subpoena, and Collier said he did not write a report on Indian gaming. Dacey speculated in his memo that Collier was then planning to re-join the law firm of Steptoe & Johnson, and that “his recent desire to meet with Indian tribes [was Collier’s] unique way of looking for future clients.”